

(L/CE) 6 SEIDEL 25 October 1965

9. SEIDEL started by saying that UTILITY is burned out and a burden rather than a help to CATIDE. He said that UTILITY does not establish programs, set goals, delegate authority, sell the CATIDE product, defend the organization politically, or any of the other things a good chief of CATIDE would do. On the contrary, he ignores these matters and lets the organization drift along without leadership or any sense of purpose. UTILITY does not face up to the major problems CATIDE faces, and spends his time with minor organizational and personnel matters. He will not let anyone else make a decision on a matter of importance, but frequently procrastinates over decisions so long himself that the matter becomes academic before the decision is made. He allows his division chiefs and senior officers to do as they please and work at cross purposes with each other. He is very fearful of flaps and afraid to assume risks. He will not tolerate dissenting opinions and surrounds himself with yes men. He cannot bring himself to dismiss his tired old friends and cronies. He is timid to the politicians in Bonn and creates an unfavorable impression of CATIDE.

10. SEIDEL said that he thought UTILITY's decline dated from the legalization of CATIDE in 1955-56. When CATIDE was legalized UTILITY had to take on a large number of organizational, financial, and personnel problems which he was ill prepared to handle. UTILITY was also confronted with a good deal of hostility in Bonn and got into the habit of being meek to the politicians. Since that time UTILITY has concentrated on the administrative and political aspects of his work and has been very much afraid to make waves.

11. SEIDEL was especially bitter about CATIDE's position in Bonn. He said that UTILITY generally gets no higher in the government hierarchy than Reinhold Marker. UTILITY also sees Gerstenmaier and Krone occasionally, but his access to even these men is not good. Adenauer came within an inch of firing UTILITY at the time of the Spiegel affair. Erhard received UTILITY once and has ignored him ever since. Westrick is very standoffish. Strauss will not speak to UTILITY. Schroeder is frosty to him and von Hassel is unavailable. SEIDEL said that the people who counted in Bonn were aware of the way UTILITY and CATIDE are floundering around, and if UTILITY was not removed it was only because of his services to Germany in the years after the war and in the creating of CATIDE. However, as soon as UTILITY reached the legal age for retirement (in April 1967), and could be gracefully eased out, he would be dropped with little ado.

12. Possibly, SEIDEL said, UTILITY might be eased out even sooner. SWAGNER, who had long been treated in a humiliating manner by UTILITY, might soon be retired because

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of ill health. His successor, whoever he was, would have to be approved by the cabinet, and this would open the whole question of CATIDE's leadership. The cabinet might then decide to replace UTILITY along with WAGNER. Certainly they would not appoint a vice president for CATIDE without giving some thought to the man who would be his boss for the next several years.

13. I commented at this point that I had heard rumors that HARTWIG would be appointed the next vice president of CATIDE. SEIDEL replied that he had heard the same rumors and could hardly think of anyone less qualified. He said HARTWIG was "charakterlos" and had gotten where he was only by sucking up to UTILITY. SEIDEL added that KUBARK would do well not to put too much confidence in HARTWIG since he had no principles and would always be quick to trim his sails to the direction of the wind.

14. I then asked who SEIDEL thought would replace UTILITY. SEIDEL said he believed it would be a young politician on the rise, probably the protege of some important political figure in Bonn. SEIDEL added that Adenauer had once considered giving the position to his aide, Bachmann, or to a protege named Bach (phon). SEIDEL said that there are a number of other clever and deserving young politicians in Bonn who would be interested in the CATIDE job, and the Bonn politicians would favor an appointment of this type after the UTILITY years. SEIDEL said that he himself thought that a political appointee, if it were the right man, would be an excellent solution for CATIDE. It would at least necessitate a fresh look at everything.

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17. SEIDEL then turned to UTILITY's attitude towards America. He said UTILITY had never been really pro-American, and at the present time was quite anti-American. SEIDEL said that in the years between 1945 - 49, UTILITY had been so bitter at the Americans, especially at the US Army, that he came within an inch of breaking with the Americans completely, and doubtlessly would have done so if KUBARK had not assumed responsibility for his organization. SEIDEL said that DESSAU had played an important role in persuading UTILITY to stay on good terms with the Americans during this period. SEIDEL added that he knew that DESSAU had since changed and had become a joke in CATIDE; still, we should remember that DESSAU was one of the most pro-American officers in CATIDE and that we had much to thank him for.

18. SEIDEL said that after [] arrival UTILITY became more friendly to the US and remained so for several years. However, after [] departed and CATIDE was legalized, UTILITY again began to grow cold toward the United States. He also began to imagine there was a clique in KUBARK which was out to get him. He attributed all sorts of misdeeds to this clique, among them sullyng his reputation in Bonn. When Adenauer tried to fire him, UTILITY even concluded that the KUBARK clique had put Adenauer up to this. SEIDEL said that he didn't know this positively, but believed that UTILITY had once even protested to ASCHAM and BRENT about this KUBARK clique.

19. SEIDEL didn't go into details, but implied that UTILITY's anti-American attitude has a negative influence on CATIDE's present dealings with us. SEIDEL said specifically that if UTILITY did not give us his report on the Bundeswehr SIGINT deserter it would be only because of UTILITY's

anti-Americanism, since all the other responsible CATIDE officers had cleared the report for passing to us.

20. While discussing UTILITY's attitude toward America, SEIDEL's reserve slipped a little and he said with a slight trace of emotion that KUBARK should know what is going on in CATIDE and that he considered it his duty to tell us. He also said that he was confident I would know how to handle his information securely. Then he became dispassionate again and a short time later stood up and took leave. We arranged to meet again in three or four weeks to discuss the Breisach project, and SEIDEL again volunteered to brief me on the Bundeswehr deserter if UTILITY has not released his report in the meantime.

R. Schlen

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